

# L'Ecole

No 41

## TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

### 2017 Apogee, Pepper Bridge Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

#### 94 PTS

*JamesSuckling.com, James Suckling* - June 2020

This is a soft, juicy red with chocolate, hazelnuts, currants and hints of balsamic. Some leather and leafy character. It's full and round-textured with a juicy finish. A blend of 65% cabernet sauvignon, 18% merlot, 14% malbec and 3% cabernet franc. A delicious, juicy young red. Drink or hold.

#### 93+ PTS

*JebDunnuck.com, Jeb Dunnuck* - April 2020

Moving to the three flagship releases, the 2017 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard checks in as 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 14% Malbec, and the balance Cabernet Franc. Its inky purple/ruby color is followed by a ripe yet pure nose of crème de cassis, black raspberries, crushed flowers, vanilla bean, charcoal, and dark chocolate. With full-bodied richness, a ripe, powerful style, terrific tannins, and a great finish, it's another sexy wine in this lineup that will round into form with 2-4 years of bottle age.

#### 93 PTS, YEAR'S BEST US CABERNET & BLENDS

*Wine & Spirits, Patrick J. Comiskey* - October 2020

A blend of about two-thirds cabernet sauvignon, with merlot, malbec and cabernet franc, the 2017 Apogee is dramatically savory, with scents of woodsmoke and creosote bush, and accents of thyme, lavender and unsweetened cocoa. There's a lot going on, its a blue-black flavors delivered through grainy, flinty tannins that give this wine the bearing to age beautifully.

#### 92 PTS

*Wine Advocate, Anthony Mueller* - October 2020

Made from a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot and 14% Malbec, the 2017 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard opens with a bold and expressive nose highlighted with aromas of stewed cherries, plum preserves and blackberry reduction. The wine has a subtle spiciness with hints of dried herbs and brown baking spices with baked earth elements. Full-bodied, the wine is pleasurable, generous and open-knit on the palate, ready for drinking upon release, with juicy and succulent tannins across the mid-palate. The wine is marked with structured finesse and has a long, lingering finish with persistent flavors of red plum, cocoa nibs and espresso beans. Drink date: 2020-2032.

#### 91 PTS

*Vinous, Stephen Tanzer* - December 2020

Bright medium red-ruby. Brooding aromas of briary blackberry, blueberry, licorice, menthol, herbs and black pepper. Suave and silky but slightly green on entry, then the dark fruit, pepper and spice flavors are tightened by herb and menthol qualities in the middle palate. This is savory more than sweet and does not show the early generosity of the Cabernet Sauvignon Estate. Conveys an impression of less consistent ripening than the 2016 version and finishes a bit dry and clenched. This wine clearly calls for patience.

#### COMPETITIONS

Sunset International Wine Competition, 2020	<i>Double Gold</i>
Wine Press Northwest Platinum Judging, 2020	<i>Double Gold</i>
Walla Walla Valley Wine Competition, 2020	<i>Gold</i>